



E-NEWS from *Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn*

An electronic legislative update for October 2, 2002

DID YOU KNOW...



Last week, Jennifer joined a group of 20 Members of Congress to meet with President Bush at the White House to discuss the situation in Iraq. Immediately following the briefing, Jennifer (pictured in photo left of President) participated in a news conference and discussed the importance of passing a resolution authorizing the President to take appropriate action to rid Saddam Hussein of weapons of mass destruction.

Following her meeting last week with President Bush, Jennifer released the following statement:

"The President has made very clear that going to war with Iraq is a last resort. The US is working on many fronts, including thorough extensive diplomatic negotiations, to ensure that Saddam Hussein is disarmed and removed from power.

"Most encouraging today was the news that nearly 40 nations have committed to supporting our efforts to rid Iraq of weapons of mass destruction. I salute the Administration for working so hard in this regard.

"Today's meeting at the White House further demonstrates that the President believes it is important for this debate to take place publicly, taking into consideration varying points of view.

"Congress will soon consider a resolution authorizing the President to use force against Iraq if necessary. I look forward to being involved in this process as we move ahead."

--Jennifer Dunn, September 26, 2002

What is going on this week?

CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, WHITE HOUSE AGREE ON IRAQ RESOLUTION; *Copy of Resolution Available on Jennifer's website*

Earlier today, Congressional leaders and President Bush announced an agreement on a resolution authorizing force against Iraq in an effort to destroy Saddam Hussein's ability to create and stockpile weapons of mass destruction. The US House is likely to debate and vote on the resolution next week. Please visit Jennifer's website to view the entire text of the resolution: www.house.gov/dunn/

US HOUSE APPROVES RESOLUTION ENCOURAGING SENATE TO MAKE MARRIAGE TAX RELIEF PERMANENT

The US House of Representatives has passed a measure calling on the Senate to pass a bill to permanently repeal the marriage tax penalty. In Washington State, it is estimated that over 559,000 couples benefit from the recent repeal of the unfair tax. Last spring as part of the President's comprehensive tax relief package, among other provisions, the Congress voted to repeal the marriage tax penalty. However, a Senate rule forces the repeal to expire on December 31, 2010. While the House recently passed a separate measure making the repeal permanent, the Senate has failed to act on the legislation. Jennifer voted in support of the bill.

US HOUSE APPROVES BILL TO INCREASE LOAN FORGIVENESS TO ATTRACT QUALITY TEACHERS TO AMERICA'S SCHOOLS

Earlier this week, the US House passed a bill to increase the number of quality teachers in our nation's public schools by substantially increasing the maximum student loan forgiveness from \$5000 to \$17,500. A US Department of Education program created in 1998 forgives up to \$5000 of student loans for teachers who agree to work in disadvantaged areas, with a priority for teachers of special education, mathematics and teachers in schools struggling to attract highly qualified teachers. Jennifer supported the measure.

US HOUSE OVERWHELMINGLY PASSES BILL REGARDING EXPEDITED SPECIAL ELECTIONS

The US House has overwhelmingly approved a measure calling on states to ensure that Americans retain their full representation in Congress by providing for expedited special elections in the event of a catastrophe. Under current law in most states, if a Member of Congress dies while in office, it can take several weeks or months to fill that Congressional seat. This measure calls on states to create expedited special election laws that would be implemented in the event of a disaster where numerous Members of Congress lose their lives.

What we did last week;

US HOUSE APPROVED FUNDING FOR COUNTERTERRORISM, SAFETY OF US EMBASSIES ABROAD

The US House has passed a bill to provide \$8.6 billion to help the US fight terrorism overseas and to ensure the safety of men and women working in American embassies abroad. The bill is the final version of the "Foreign Relations Authorization Act of 2003." In addition to providing funds for counter terrorism efforts abroad, it requires the State Department to recruit individuals with extensive foreign service experience, to work to reform the UN Commission on Human Rights and to report to Congress on foreign governments that refuse to extradite criminals for prosecution in the US. Jennifer voted in support of the measure.

US HOUSE SCHEDULED TO CONSIDER MEASURE ENCOURAGING SENATE TO PASS BILL TO PROTECT EMPLOYEE PENSIONS

The US House has passed a measure that "expressed the sense of the House of Representatives that Congress should complete action on the Pension Security Act of 2002." On April 11, 2002, the House passed a bill that protects employees' pension savings by allowing retirement savings be diversified, requiring employers to offer more education and information regarding their retirement plans and protecting against corporate abuses and mismanagement of pensions. The Senate however, has failed to consider the measure. Jennifer voted in support of the resolution.

Summary of Press Releases;

HOUSE PANEL APPROVES US REP JENNIFER DUNN'S REQUEST FOR \$10.72 MILLION FOR 8TH DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

The House panel that oversees federal transportation spending, has approved Congresswoman Jennifer Dunn's request for over \$10 million to fund projects in the 8th Congressional district that will help improve safety and decrease traffic congestion. The funds are part of the fiscal year 2003 federal transportation spending bill. Specifically, the House Transportation Appropriations Committee approved the following projects that were requested by Congresswoman Dunn:

\$2.8 million for Issaquah Highlands Park and Ride; \$1 million for Sound Transit to construct a Transit Center or Park and Ride on Mercer Island; \$500,000 for two-way transit operations on I-90; \$420,000 for safety improvements in SR 164; \$6 million for Washington WorkFirst Initiative.

"A good quality of life for Puget Sound region families includes the ability to travel to and from work and home on safe roads with minimal congestion. With the growth in our area, transportation has become one of our greatest challenges, and finding solutions is a priority. I am grateful to my colleagues in the US House who recognize the need for funding these important transportation projects for our area," said Congresswoman Dunn.